

EDITORIAL

Pumpkin Festival aftermath:

28,952 pumpkins later

Saturday marked the 13th annual Pumpkin Festival in Keene, N.H.

The small city was mobbed with tourists from all over New England and beyond. Vendors lined the streets selling tasty treats and popular souvenirs, and hundreds and hundreds of those beloved pumpkins filled every available space. Everyone loves to walk down Main Street and see all of the uniquely carved jack-o-lanterns lit up and glowing once the sun goes down.

It is quite a sight to see.

But what's an even bigger sight to see is what you could call the "aftermath" of the Pumpkin Festival.

Once the awesome fireworks display goes off at the end of the night, marking the end of the festival, sight-seers (about 70,000 of them to be exact) flee for their cars, shuttles, and buses, in what looks similar to a scene from "Godzilla."

But then what?

Once people have gone, vendors begin to pack up their tents, and candles are blown out. Downtown Keene looks like a the scene of a battle, only replace the bodies with abandoned pumpkins and so much trash.

Some people like to take advantage of the "aftermath" of the Pumpkin Festival, using the lonely pumpkins for the weird pleasure of smashing them on the ground, or even chucking them at buildings and cars.

And stealing pumpkins that reside on porches of surrounding residences of downtown Keene is not ruled out for them either. Smashed pumpkins were found the next day covering streets off of Main St. like on Blake St. and Davis St.

Such immature acts detract from the spirit of the festival. These acts are just sad.

But have no fear, a lot of the little pumpkins are saved from utter destruction by local residents to bring back to their houses to put on display for Halloween, and area farmers take them back to their farms for compost.

The clean up crew steps in, however, to make every-

OPINION

the Equinox

PAGE A4

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Letters to the Editor

Prevent acts of hatred and prejudice on campus

This semester, Keene State College has experienced at least two bias-related incidents involving graffiti and the misuse of Blackboard email that have provoked anguish and anger in the campus community.

Whether these actions were the result of ignorance or overt hatred and prejudice, they undermine our efforts to create an atmosphere of trust, civility, and respect that is so fundamental to our mission as an educational institution.

Both incidents are violations of campus policies and are

under investigation by campus authorities.

Whether the individuals who are responsible for these acts are identified or not, it is important for members of this campus community to speak up and oppose bigotry in any form.

We must do more than seek to hold individuals responsible for these acts; we must also reach out to those who felt threatened by these incidents.

If our campus is not safe for everyone, we cannot hope to achieve our goals of diversity and the free exchange of ideas and information.

I urge all students, faculty, and staff to join me in denouncing all acts of hatred and bigotry.

They compromise our educational mission and our values of inclusion and diversity.

They harm members of our community and cannot be tolerated.



Stanley J. Yarosewick,
President of
Keene State
College.

Individuality is key at Keene State College

the Equinox

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